

DNR NEWS ALERT

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 W. Washington St. W255 B
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2748

State Entomologist Available for Interviews at Jellystone Campground Tuesday after 10:30 a.m.

The emerald ash borer, a pest that has been responsible for the destruction of more than 6 million ash trees in Michigan and has been identified in Ohio, has now been found in Indiana.

Tuesday, April 27, Dr. Robert Waltz, the state entomologist and director of the DNR's division of entomology and plant pathology, will be at the site of the infestation, the Yogi Bear Jellystone campground on Barton Lake in Steuben County near Fremont. He will be available for interviews after 10:30 a.m.

Other DNR staff, including staff from the division of forestry, will also be present. The DNR will be conducting its first survey of the area of the infestation in preparation for subsequent removal of the infected ash trees and other steps to contain the infestation.

Friday, April 23, the DNR confirmed an infestation of the emerald ash borer. The site is about 40 miles north of Ft. Wayne.

After confirming the infestation, DNR placed a quarantine on Jamestown Township in Steuben County. The quarantine forbids the transportation out of the township of any ash tree, including nursery stock, any ash logs or untreated lumber with the bark attached, and composted or uncomposted ash chips or bark chips one inch or larger. Also, no cut firewood from any species of tree grown in Jamestown Township may now be taken out of the township.

The adult emerald ash borer is slender with a bright metallic coppery green color. It is about one-third of an inch long. The larval, or immature stage of the insect destroys live ash trees by eating the layers under the bark of the tree that supplies nutrients. After those layers are destroyed, the tree starves to death within a short time.

Infestations are most easily identified by tiny D-shaped holes that are visible on the tree's bark. The bark may also develop lengthwise cracks or fissures.

To date, millions of ash trees have fallen prey to the emerald ash borer and a number of Michigan counties are under quarantine. The pest also has been found a few miles east of the Indiana border near Hicksville, Ohio and a few miles to the north in Quincy, Mich.

Additional information about the emerald ash borer is available on the DNR Web site at: www.in.gov/dnr/entomolo/pestinfo/ashborer.htm

Reporter contact:

Russ Grunden, (317) 234-0924 or email at rgrunden@dnr.state.in.us